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## **M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: May 5, 2020

TO: IYC Chicago Staff

FROM: Heidi Mueller, Director

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

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DJJ is committed to your health and safety, and we want you to be as informed as possible about how COVID-19 is impacting the department.

Since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, DJJ has suspended all visitation and screened all staff entering the facility for COVID-19 symptoms, fever, and possible exposure to the virus. Any staff reporting symptoms, an elevated temperature, and/or close contact with someone who has the virus is asked to return home for self-quarantine and to contact their medical provider. Universal masking and social distancing are practiced in all facilities, and all high-touch areas are cleaned during every shift. Additionally, all youth receive a daily temperature check and are closely monitored for symptoms.

Through the close monitoring of youth, we have identified a positive COVID-19 case from a youth at IYC Chicago. All youth in close contact with the patient have been tested for the virus and placed in medical isolation pending test results. The family of the patient and the youth in medical isolation have been notified.

The youth self-reported a scratchy throat and was placed in isolation for medical monitoring. He then developed a fever and was tested for COVID-19, along with the standard battery of other tests. His COVID-19 test result came back positive, and we took immediate action to treat the youth, reduce the risk of spread, and ensure the health and safety of everyone at IYC Chicago.

After reviewing this case with Dr. Kwak and the Department of Public Health, we took the following steps:

- Contact tracing and security footage review to identify all youth and staff who came into close contact with the affected youth.
- Placing the entire facility into self-isolation/quarantine mode pending the results of additional testing of youth and staff.
- Reducing workforce onsite and moving substance abuse and educational staff onto remote work status.

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- Place all staff with direct contact with affected youth in self-isolation.
- Issuing N95 masks and gloves to all staff onsite.
- Issuing N95 masks, gloves, and face shields to all staff interacting with affected youth.
- Closely monitoring all youth for symptoms and increasing frequency of daily temperature checks.
- Testing all youth with direct contact to affected youth for COVID-19.
- Notifying staff about self-isolation protocol and risk of exposure.
- Notifying the family of the affected youth.
- Notifying the family of youth about self-isolation and risk of exposure.
- Submitting incident report to Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Increased frequency of cleaning to high-touch areas.
- Closely monitoring PPE inventory and securing additional PPE.
- Securing additional COVID-19 tests.
- Providing youth in isolation with art supplies, books, TVs, tablets, radios, and activities to keep them occupied and engaged.
- Deep cleaning for the entire facility.

The Department of Public Health is closely monitoring COVID-19 in Illinois to assess exposures and the level of risk to individuals who may have been exposed. As with the previous cases, they are advising us risk of contagion at IYC Chicago.

We will continue to review this case with the Department of Public Health and Dr. Kwak and take all necessary steps to protect the health and safety of our youth and staff at IYC Chicago. Should any potential high risk of exposure be identified, we will reach out individually per Department of Public Health guidance to any employee, youth, and youth's family who may have been exposed with instructions on next steps.

This situation emphasizes again how important the temperature check and symptom monitoring protocol for youth and staff are in reducing the risk of contagion. Please continue to regularly monitor for symptoms in yourself and others, especially:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Sudden loss of taste or smell

If you develop any of these symptoms, please do the following:

- Stay home while ill (self-isolation). Practice social distancing by avoiding public places and gatherings. Once you develop symptoms, you can be contagious for up to 7 days and/or until you have been fever free for 72 hours.
- Contact your health care provider to determine if a medical evaluation is needed. Since COVID-19 illness is mild in 81% of persons, you may not need to be seen or tested. Please do **NOT** show up at your provider's office or the Emergency Room without calling ahead.
- Do not travel on commercial conveyances or public transportation, such as airplanes, trains, subways, and buses, until you are no longer symptomatic.

The most effective tools we have to protect our health during this pandemic continue to be: 1) screening and monitoring of youth symptoms, your own symptoms, and the symptoms of our family members; and 2) the rigorous cleaning, handwashing and social distancing protocols we are all following.

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Please continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the department, and practice good healthy habits and social distancing. We are in this together and we are working hard to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at DJJ.

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